

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Tom Rooney (R-Fla.), a former Captain in the JAG Corps and special prosecutor on Fort Hood, today called for charges to be dropped against the remaining Navy SEALs accused of mistreating a terrorist leader.

“Let’s stop the insanity. These men are warriors handling a mass murdering terrorist,” Rooney said. “We should give them the support they need to complete their dangerous missions, not court-martial them based on flimsy evidence. This sends exactly the wrong message to the men and women who are protecting Americans from al Qaeda and the Taliban.

“I’m pleased that a Navy jury found Petty Officer Huertas not guilty, and I hope military prosecutors will now drop the remaining charges against our war fighters.”

Petty Officer Matthew McCabe of Perrysburg, Ohio still faces charges of assault for allegedly punching detainee Ahmed Hashim Abed, the accused mastermind behind the brutal killings of four security contractors whose burned corpses were dragged through the streets. Charges also remain against Petty Officer Jonathan Keefe of Yorktown, Va., who is charged with dereliction of duty for allegedly not protecting the detainee. On April 22, a jury found Petty Officer Julio Huertas of Blue Island, Ill. not guilty on charges of failing to safeguard the prisoner.

Rooney spent more than four years in the United States Army JAG Corps. He served as Special Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Texas, prosecuting all civilian crimes on Fort Hood, TX, then taught the Laws of War and the Uniform Code of Military Justice at the United States Military Academy at West Point from 2002-04. Rooney is now a member of the House Armed Services Committee (HASC), the HASC Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee, and the Judiciary Committee.

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